

Parents and educators across the country endorse the School Breakfast Program because they believe that it improves youngsters' ability to learn. For the same reason, States have sought to expand the Program in their schools, and some mandate participation.

Federal officials are proud to work with State leaders, educators, food service professionals, parents, and others in making the School Breakfast Program available to our children. Their cooperative efforts are a wonderful example of a successful partnership between Federal and State governments and local communities. They also play an important role in meeting our first National Education Goal: ensuring that, by the year 2000, all children in America start school ready to learn.

In recognition of the School Breakfast Program, the Congress, by House Joint Resolution 98, has designated the week of March 4 through March 10, 1991, as "National School Breakfast Week" and has authorized and requested the President to issue a proclamation in observance of this week.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, GEORGE BUSH, President of the United States of America, do hereby designate the week of March 4 through March 10, 1991, as National School Breakfast Week. I urge all Americans to observe this week in honor of those individuals at the Federal, State, and local levels whose efforts contribute so much to the success of this valuable program.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this eighth day of March, in the year of our Lord nineteen hundred and ninety-one, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and fifteenth.

GEORGE BUSH

Proclamation 6259 of March 12, 1991

Irish-American Heritage Month, 1991

*By the President of the United States of America
A Proclamation*

Each ethnic group in America has made unique contributions to the ever-unfolding story of the United States. This month, as we celebrate the life of Saint Patrick, the beloved Apostle of Ireland, we also celebrate the hardy character, the rich cultural heritage, and the many valuable contributions of Irish-Americans.

By 1776, the year that opened the first chapter in the dramatic history of our Republic, some 300,000 Irish citizens had emigrated to the United States. Many of these courageous individuals played crucial roles in America's War for Independence. Indeed, nine of the men who signed the Declaration of Independence were of Irish origin, as was Commodore John Barry, the first naval commander commissioned by the Continental Congress. Irish-Americans serving in a division of George Washington's forces known as the Pennsylvania Line were so impressive, they moved General Henry Lee to note that it "might with more propriety had been called the Line of Ireland."

Since Irish-Americans not only helped to win America's Independence but also helped to fashion a system of government for our young Nation, it seems fitting that an Irish-born architect, James Hoban, designed the White House and assisted in the building of the United States Capitol. These magnificent structures have symbolized freedom and democracy to generations of men and women around the world.

Today the distinct "Line of Ireland" can still be traced throughout American culture. American literature, for example, has been greatly enriched by the contributions of gifted Irish-American writers such as Eugene O'Neill and Edwin O'Connor. Throughout the arts—and throughout education, government, business, science, and agriculture—talented men and women of Irish descent continue to merit the honor we give to them and to their ancestors. Indeed, in recent years, renewed immigration from Ireland and the revival of interest by all Americans in their roots have led to an increasingly vibrant Irish-American culture. The dramatic expansion of university courses in Irish studies and the countless annual Saint Patrick's Day parades held throughout the United States all attest to the continued vigor of the Irish-American heritage.

In tribute to all Irish-Americans, the Congress, by Public Law 101-418, has designated March 1991 as "Irish-American Heritage Month" and has authorized and requested the President to issue a proclamation in observance of this occasion.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, GEORGE BUSH, President of the United States of America, do hereby proclaim March 1991 as Irish-American Heritage Month. I encourage all Americans to learn more about the contributions Irish-Americans have made to our country and to observe this day with appropriate ceremonies and activities.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this twelfth day of March, in the year of our Lord nineteen hundred and ninety-one, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and fifteenth.

GEORGE BUSH

Proclamation 6260 of March 15, 1991

National Employ the Older Worker Week, 1991

*By the President of the United States of America
A Proclamation*

Millions of older Americans are both willing and able to put their knowledge and experience to work for our country. Providing greater opportunities for them to do so is not only a wonderful way to demonstrate appreciation for these valued members of our society, it is also a sound investment in America's future. By helping senior citizens to remain in the work force or to pursue second careers after retirement, we can enhance America's competitive edge in the global economy. By encouraging older Americans to share their wisdom and skills as volunteers, we can strengthen and enrich our communities.